

PATENT Docket No. 271122003713 Client Ref. RTS 226R

## CERTIFICATE OF HAND DELIVERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being hand filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C.

on September 25, 2000.

Howard R. Harris

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Lee A. BULLA

Serial No.:

09/457,864

Filing Date:

December 10, 1999

For:

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Examiner: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: 1643

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement and/or Office Action, directed to the related application Serial Number 08/326,117, filed October 19, 1994 (Patent Number 5,693,491, issued on December 2, 1997), and, accordingly, copies are not included herewith. This protocol conforms with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d) and M.P.E.P. 609(A)(2). The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record in the application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is to the best of my knowledge and is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to <a href="Deposit Account No. 03-1952">Deposit Account No. 03-1952</a> referencing 271122003713. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: September 25, 2000

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Respectfully submitted

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